श्री साहिब सिंह वर्मा : दो वर्ष पहले जो मीटिंग बुलाई थी उसके बारे में मुझे नहीं मालूम । जब ट्रेड यूनियन्स के लीडर्स ने मुझसे कहा कि हम प्रधानमंत्री जी से मिलना चाहते हैं तो मैं स्वयं उन्हें प्रधानमंत्री जी के पास लेकर गया था । उस समय यह बात आई थी कि पी.एस.यू.ज. का जो डिसइन्वेस्टमेंट हुआ है उसमें अनएम्प्लाएमेंट हो रहा है, लोगों को निकाला जा रहा है, वी.आर.एस. दी जा रही है । तब प्रधानमंत्री जी के सामने, ट्रेड यूनियन लीडर्स के सामने हमने कहा था कि मॉडर्न और बाल्को के अंदर कमेटी बनाकर इस बात की जांच करवाएंगे कि वस्तुस्थिति क्या है । हमने कमेटी बना दी है । कमेटी ने विजिट किया है । कमेटी इसकी जांच कर रही है । कमेटी की जो भी रिपोर्ट होगी हम सदन के सामने रख देंगे ।

उपसभापति : प्रोविडेंट फंड के बारे में बता दीजिए ।

श्री साहिब सिंह वर्मा : आपने बोनस की बात कही है । हम बोनस बढ़ाएंगे, उसकी सीलिंग बढ़ाएंगे । प्रधानमंत्री जी ने जो कहा है मैं उसे देख लूंगा । बातचीत कर लूंगा । क्या तय हुआ था यह भी देख लेंगे । मैंने स्वयं कहा है कि बोनस की सीलिंग बढ़े । मैं व्यक्तिगत रूप से चाहता हूं । इस पर क्या कार्रवाई हो सकती है, हम करेंगे । माननीय प्रधानमंत्री जी के साथ क्या तय हुआ है, उसे भी देख लेंगे । आपने कहा कि इसमें सैंट्रल बोर्ड आफ ट्रस्टीज ने ही तय करना है, तो मैं बता दूं कि यह एक सुप्रीम बॉडी है । गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया, फाइनेंस मिनिस्ट्री या दूसरे सर्कुलर क्यों भेजते हैं, क्यों कहते हैं कि रेट ऑफ इंट्रस्ट को कम कीजिए । यह इसलिए कहा जाता है ताकि यूनिफॉर्मिटी रहे, जो गवर्नमेंट आफ इंडिया के एम्प्लाइज हैं, उनका और इनका पी.एफ. रेट यूनिफार्म हो जाए । इसीलिए वे कहते हैं । हमने बताया है कि यह हमारा पैसा नहीं है । गवर्नमेंट ऑफ इंडिया का पैसा नहीं है । यह वर्कर का पैसा है । हम तो इसके कस्टोडियन हैं । हम तो इसे इन्वेस्ट कर रहे हैं । जो रेट ऑफ इंट्रस्ट पर जो रिटर्न मिल रहा है, रेट ऑफ इंट्रस्ट की फार्म में, उनके एकाउण्ट को हम ऐड कर रहे हैं । जब हमने यह बताया तो उन्होंने कहा कि यह प्रश्न नहीं है ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now it is over. ...*(Interruptions)*...

श्री जीवन राय : मैडम, एक बात ठीक करवा दीजिए कि कानून बनाने से पहले ये ट्रेड यूनियन्स से बात करेंगे या नहीं ? Whether they will discuss the matter in the Standing Labour Committee? ...*(Interruptions)*...

उपसभापति : वे कर रहे हैं. The discussion on the Calling Attention is over...*(Interruptions)*...Now, we take up the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2003.

THE WATER (PREVENTION AND CONTROL OF POLLUTION) CESS (AMENDMENT) BILL, 2003

THE MINISTER OF ENVIRONMENT AND FORESTS (SHRI T.R. BAALU): Madam, while moving the motion for further amending the Water (Prevention

and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, I would like to mention that the primary aim of the Bill, as passed by Lok Sabha, is not only to augment the resources of Pollution Control Boards, but also to promote economy in the use of water with a view to abating pollution. After the Parliament enacted in 1986, the Umbrella legislation for protection of environment, *i.e.*, the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986 and the rapid industrialisation and urbanisation, the responsibilities of the Central and Pollution Control Boards have gone up manifold. But, on the other hand, the resources of these Boards, in particular the financial resources, have not kept pace with the increase in cost and with the overall commitments, which call for additional financial liabilities. The water cess rates, fixed over a decade ago in 1991, have not been revised so far. There have been demands from the States as well as the Pollution Control Boards to enhance the cess rates.

Firstly, the effectiveness of the State Boards, in pollution control activities, could not be stepped up for want of commensurate resources. Further, the current cess rates have not proved to be a sufficient deterrent to push industrial consumers towards reducing the use of water. As the hon. Members are aware, the fact that water is increasingly becoming a scarce natural resource, is a stark reality, and hence, all strategies are needed to be adopted to conserve water.

Sir, it will not be out of context, if I mention some of the hard facts concerning the availability of fresh water. The annual per capita availability of fresh water in India, which was as much as 5177 cubic metres in 1951, reduced to 1820 cubic metres in 2001. The projections for 2025 and 2050 are just 1341 cubic metres and 1140 cubic metres respectively. The situation at global level also is so grim that the United Nations has declared 2003, as the International Fresh Water Year, so that the people and Governments get sensitized on the issue and its importance. So, there are no soft options, and we have to take all measures, maybe, some are tough, to protect and conserve the fresh water resources, while striving for sustainable use of water in all its uses and applications.

Sir, I would also like to mention that the proposal to enhance the water cess rates is in consonance with the Government's Policy Statement on Abatement of Pollution, which stresses on adoption of economic instruments for pollution control and conservation of natural resources. Economic instruments help to integrate economic considerations into

environmental decision-making. They offer an incentive to industries to reduce pollution below the stipulated levels and act as disincentive to those who exploit water excessively. New technologies, cleaner processes, and promotion of non-polluting and environment-friendly products, are also catalysed by economic instruments. Ultimately, the economic instruments help conservation of natural resources, and also act as a source of finance to the statutory agencies, entrusted with the task of controlling pollution.

The standards of effluents are notified under the provisions of the Environment (Protection) Act, 1986, and failure to comply with the prescribed standards, attracts prosecution. These regulations become more effective, when combined with economic instruments, and the Water Cess Act offers an economic incentive to reduce pollution. Water-consuming industrial units, which conform to prescribed standards for effluents, have to pay lower amounts of cess, and this acts as a financial incentive for units to comply with the prescribed standards. By enhancing the cess rates, this incentive becomes a stronger motivating force for reducing pollution.

The Bill seeks to increase the present rates of cess on water consumption, approximately, three-fold. Of course, the new rates will be the maximum permissible level, and the actual rates will be notified by the Government from time to time. I must point out that the Bill also seeks to extend cess to all categories of industries, which consume water, more than the prescribed minimum water quantity, and discharge sewage or trade effluents. However, a notable feature is that the cess on hydel power is proposed to be abolished, in accordance with the recommendations of the Standing Committee of Parliament. The Bill, as presented to this House, is totally in conformity with the recommendations of the Standing Committee and, at this juncture, I express my gratitude to the Standing Committee for its valuable recommendations.

Madam, through you, I look forward to this august House for valued opinion and support for this measure.

With these words, Madam, I commend the Bill to the House.

The question was proposed.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Now, the total time allotted for this Bill is one hour, and the Minister has very elaborately given the reasons for bringing in the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2003. I would also request the Members to speak within the stipulated time. Shri Santosh Bagrodia.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Madam Deputy Chairperson, I thank you for giving me this opportunity to speak. Madam, I rise to support the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess (Amendment) Bill, 2003 in principle. Madam, before I talk about water and its pollution, let me say that, at present, the biggest problem before the world is oil. The entire world is being threatened by the United States of America by their statement that they will go to war with Iraq. It is not against terrorism; it is not to help the poor people of the world; it is not to bring peace to the world; it is not to help any oppressed country or people of the world; but it is simply to establish supremacy over oil belonging to Iraq. There can be a substitute for oil and energy. Many substitutes are already in use in different parts of the world. Oil can be made out of sugarcane, or solar power or wind power can be used. There is a study going on to use even sea waves for producing power. But, Madam, very soon, may be in another 20 or 30 years, there may be a water-war in the world. If you see the records, developed countries are using or wasting about hundred times more water per person in comparison to poorer countries in Asia or Africa. Very soon, even they will find shortage of water. At that time, they will try to wage a war for control of water resources. There can be a substitute for oil, but there is no known substitute for water as yet. We cannot solve this problem like the French Queen, who said, "eat cake, if there is no bread." We cannot say, "drink Soda, if there is no water." A man or an animal can live without food for days, and in some cases, even for months. But most men cannot live without water even for days. I do not have to emphasize any further the importance of water.

Madam, now comes the question of pollution of water. This Bill is providing for cess for Prevention and Control of Pollution of Water. You may double the cess on industrial use, I have no objection to it; but is it enough to either prevent or control pollution? This is what needs to be seen. Is the problem going to be solved simply by increasing the cess? For prevention, you need to impart proper education to the masses and also, to the industry-owners. You already know about the cleaning of Ganga Plan

initiated by the late Shri Rajiv Gandhi. Hundreds of crores of rupees were spent and the Ganga was cleaned. But what happened after that cleaning? It is today again polluted, not only at the lower levels, but even at the source. The pilgrims cannot even use that water for bathing, much less for drinking purposes. You have seen what is happening to our rivers and sea beaches. They are being polluted indiscriminately by all and sundry.

I compliment the Centre of Science and Environment under your Ministry for exposing bottled water and also the BIS Standards. As a result, we have come to know that even the ground water is fully polluted due to indiscriminate use of pesticides, etc. Therefore, if we need to prevent pollution, we have to educate all those people who are using pesticides and other chemicals, including fertilizers, for proper use of the same. Similarly, we have to educate people who are using our rivers and sea beaches. Of course, we need to educate the industrial users also. If they are not careful in the use of water, they are not only hurting others, but they are going to hurt themselves and their own industries.

Then comes the question of control of pollution and also, controlling those people who are using and polluting our ground water resources, rivers and sea beaches. What powers does your Ministry have in this respect? They make laws, but they do not know how to implement them, because they have no powers. Do you have the powers and infrastructure, either to educate or to check people who are polluting ground water and other water sources, as mentioned earlier? You have doubled the cess on industrial users. What are you going to do with these doubled funds? Do you have any plans to educate the users? Do you have any plans to increase the staff to control the polluters and punish them? Do you have any powers to punish the culprits? I believe that yours is a Ministry, which has no teeth; you cannot punish anybody. You cannot enforce pollution control measures even if you know that there can be a disaster.

For example, you are very well aware of the grounded ship "River Princess" lying at Condolim Beach in Goa for the last two and a half years. That will pollute the entire Beach in the next five years. You have made a lot of efforts; I do not deny it. But you have, finally, found yourselves helpless. I strongly suggest, please bring more amendments, more new Bills, whereby, over and above such monetary powers of Cess, you may have

more teeth to punish the polluters or the would-be polluters. Your Ministry must have enough powers to take preventive steps when you know that this is going to hurt the water resources and pollute the water for ever or for a very long time.

Similarly, you know that when we talk about pollution, water is not the only thing. Plastic bags are creating the maximum pollution. You have a budget of tens of thousands of crores in the Ministry to reduce the pollution levels in the country. Had the Supreme Court not put its foot down, Delhi air would have choked the citizens of Delhi to death due to heavy air pollution. Similarly, these plastic bags are banned from use in a very unscientific manner, and you have no machinery to check the quality of such bags. Whatever may be the quality of bags, one thing is certain that they are going to pollute not only the urban areas but also the rural areas. The Government that the hon. Minister represents, has decided to use plastic bags for packing of cereals. Has your Ministry ever considered that these bags are going to be strewn all over the fields in the country, making them polluted for thousands of years? Please make such studies and let the country know what your Ministry is doing to stop pollution of fertile land in the country.

Madam, the Plastics India - 2003 is on, and it is just going to be over. It has nothing to do with water straightway. But, since he is the Minister of Environment, I just draw his attention, through you, Madam, to what Dr. Dilip Biswas has said. Even Dr. Biswas, who is the Chairman of the Central Pollution Control Board, which comes under him, has mentioned about the use of plastics in the foreword of a book. In the premier, *Plastics: Profiting From Pollution*, he has said,

> "The general perception is that plastic means only polybags and by not using them, we have done our bit for the environment. But plastic is used in your life every day. The consumption of plastic has actually increased by an enormous 891 per cent in the last six years. The demand for plastic increases three times every ten years."

I am only trying to say, since we are talking about pollution, the pollution control, whether it is concerning water or air or a beach or a river, unless this Ministry takes these things seriously, to the extent of really catching the

culprits and punishing them, using its right to punish, all these laws of Cess are not going to be really helpful. The hon. Minister, in his opening remark, rather in a quick remark, has mentioned about the economic use of ground water. Simply by increasing the rates, economy is not going to come, like it happens in power. We have got another obligation, i.e. power efficiency or conservation of power. There is a study going on, on how to conserve power. And for every industry it is going to be decided by this particular Organisation how we can conserve power. Similarly, why shall we not have a Board or some scientific organisation to study on how we can conserve water, how we can use less water, so that the industries do not suffer and still the water is useful. That is one way of doing things better. Otherwise, you go on putting the cess; the industries will go on paying the cess, and they will go on increasing the rates. That is not going to solve the problem. They have not mentioned that by increasing this, doubling this, how much funds they are going to raise, so that we can know how many more crores we are going to get and still we will not be able to function. Madam, Chairperson, you wanted me that we should not go very long. You wanted the House to pass this Bill within one hour. I hope I have finished within my time-limit. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: You conserved the time. That is most important. I have never seen in this House, in so many years, that any Member from the other Benches like to give more teeth to the Minister; they like to break the teeth. So, I think now, at least you are getting some more teeth. So, Shrimati Savita Sharda, you also give some more teeth.

श्रीमती सविता शारदा (गुजरात): उपसभापति महोदया, मैं बहुत कम समय लूंगी ।

उपसभापति महोदया, आज "जल (प्रदूषण निवारण तथा नियंत्रण) उपकर (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2003 के समर्थन के लिए खड़ी हुई हूं । आज पर्यावरण केवल राष्ट्रीय महत्व की समस्या नही अपितु यह विश्व महत्व की समस्या बन गई है । देश में अकेले घरेलू उत्पाद 2.5 गुणा बढ़ा है लेकिन प्रदूषण मे लगभग 8 गुणा वृद्धि हुई है । समग्र मानव जाति ही नही अपितु समग्र जीव सृष्टि के जीवन पर प्रदूषित पानी, प्रदूषित हवा और आसपास के प्रदूषित वातावरण से खतरा उत्पन्न हो गया है । औद्योगिकीकरण बढ़ रहा है । उद्योगों से निकलने वाली हवा प्रदूषण फैलाती है, गंदा पानी प्रदूषण फैलाता है, मशीनो से निकलने वाला शोर प्रदूषण फैलाता है ।

महोदया, मैं गुजरात राज्य से जुड़ी हूं, इसलिए उसके बारे में थोड़ा सा बता रही हूं कि गुजरात राज्य का औद्योगिक दृष्टि से देश मे दूसरा स्थान है । गुजरात मे उद्योगों द्वारा 4.30 लाख टन कचरा प्रतिवर्ष छोड़ा जाता है । कुल मिलाकर पूरे देश की यही स्थिति है । पेट्रो-

केमिकल्स, पेस्टीसाइड्स, डाइस्टफ, कागज़, दवाइयां, रसायन और कपड़ा उद्योग भूगर्भ जल को बड़े पैमाने पर प्रदूषित करते हैं । गुजरात मे 1995 मे लगभग 756 उद्योगों को हाई कोर्ट ने बंद करने की आज्ञा दी थी । उसी तरह सुप्रीम कोर्ट के द्वारा भी पूरे देश में प्रदूषण फैलाने वाले सैकड़ों उद्योगों को बंद करने का आदेश दिया था । महोदया, दूषित अन्न और असाध्य रोग इन सबका परिणाम हैं और आज मानव जाति इससे पीड़ित है । देश की 22 नदियों का प्रदूषण दूर करने के लिए गंगा एक्शन प्लान के अंतर्गत 675 करोड़ की राशि का प्रावधान किया गया है । उक्त प्रदूषण के नियंत्रण करने की व्यवस्था राज्य और केन्द्रीय प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड द्वारा की जाती है । महोदया, दुख की बात है कि राज्यों द्वारा नदियो के प्रदूषण निवारण के लिए कोई ठोस कदम नहीं उठाए जा रहे हैं । जल प्रदूषण को कंट्रोल किया जा सकता है । आज नदियां नाले बन गए हैं और जैसा अभी बागड़ोदिया जी ने कहा है कि यदि हम मुम्बई,दिल्ली या बड़े-बड़े शहरो मे जाएं तो वहां सबसे पहले हमे प्लास्टिक की थैलियों के दर्शन होते हैं, जिनसे आज अधिक से अधिक प्रदूषण बढ़ रहा है और यह भविष्य के लिए बहुत चिंता का विषय है ।

आज प्रदूषण नियंत्रण करने के लिए बोर्ड के पास वित्तीय संसाधनो का अभाव है, जिसके परिणामस्वरूप ये पूरी तरह से प्रदूषण दूर करने मे असमर्थ हैं । राज्य बोर्डों के वित्तीय संसाधनो मे वृद्धि करने के लिए यह विधेयक लाया गया है । वर्ष 1995 मे सर्वप्रथम यह विधेयक स्टेडिंग कमेटी के पास विचारार्थ भेजा गया था और कमेटी ने तीन निम्नलिखित महत्वपूर्ण सिफारिशे की थी :

- जो उद्योग अपने उत्पादन मे पानी का उपयोग कर प्रदूषण फैलाते हैं, उन पर उपकर (सैस) लगाया जाए ।

- पानी से बिजली उत्पादन को इससे मुक्त रखा जाए ।

- घरेलू उपयोग के पानी के लिए उपकर न बढ़ाया जाए ।

उपसभापति महोदया, अभी मंत्री महोदय ने यहां पर कई बाते कही हैं । एक तो उन्होंने पानी के संरक्षण के लिए बात की है । इस बारे मे मैं कहना चाहूंगी कि गांवो मे पहले तालाब खोदे जाते थे, कुएं होते थे, आज दिन-प्रतिदिन यह सब खत्म होता जा रहा है। मुझे लगता है कि पानी की विकट समस्या भविष्य मे हमारे बच्चो के सामने आएगी । अभी मैं पिछले दिनों राजस्थान गई थी । वहां मुझे किसी ने बताया कि उनके यहां तीन दिनों मे केवल 2 घंटे पानी आता है । मंत्री जी ने इस संकट के बारे मे जो चिंता ज़ाहिर की है, इसमें हम सब उनके साथ हैं । वर्तमान विधेयक मे इन बातो की ओर ध्यान दिया गया है लेकिन आय बढ़ाने के लिए बाकी सभी राज्यो मे लगभग तीन गुना वृद्धि की जा रही है । विभिन्न राज्य सरकारो और सभी वर्गों ने इसका समर्थन किया है ।

महोदया, इस विधेयक के पारित होने पर कानून बन जाने से प्रदूषण फैलाने वाले उद्योगों के विरुद्ध कार्यवाही करके प्रदूषण को नियंत्रित किया जा सकता है । इससे नदियो मे प्रदूषण कम होगा । भूगर्भ जल मे भी प्रदूषण की मात्रा कम होगी जिसके परिणामस्वरूप जनता

का स्वास्थ्य प्रभावित नहीं होगा । इससे वातावरण शुद्ध रहेगा । इसके द्वारा सरकार को प्रदूषण पर नियंत्रण करने और उसे समाप्त करने मे मदद मिलेगी और प्राकृतिक संतुलन भी बनाए रखा जा सकेगा ।

मंत्री जी, मैं आपको एक खुशखबरी सुनाना चाहती हूं कि मैं जिस शहर में रहती हूं, उस शहर की महानगरपालिका ने ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट लगाया है । अगर हमारी साइंस ऐंड टेक्नोलॉजी की कमेटी कभी वहां जाए तो उसे देखना चाहिए कि उन्होने किस तरह से ताप्ती नदी को साफ-सुथरा रखने के लिए काम किया है । अगर इसी प्रकार सभी राज्य अपने यहां ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट्स लगाएं तो उद्योगो के द्वारा जो पानी फेंका जाता है, वह बहुत ही गंदा होता है, जिसका ट्रीटमेंट किया जा सकता है । जैसे गुजरात मे कपड़ा उद्योग है । उसके द्वारा जो प्रदूषित पानी फेंका जाता है, वह बहुत ही खराब होता है । उसके कारण मछलियां तक मर रही हैं । पिछली बार मैंने एक प्रश्न मे कहा था कि उस पानी के कारण मछलियां तक प्रभावित हो रही हैं । इसलिए मुझे लगता है कि मंत्री महोदय की रिस्पांसिबिलिटी और बढ़ जाती है । मुझे लगता है कि मंत्री महोदय को सभी राज्यों को ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट्स लगाने के लिए आदेश देना पड़ेगा क्योंकि आपको मालूम है कि जब तक किसी काम को जबरदस्ती न करवाया जाए, वह होता नहीं है । अगर मंत्री महोदय सभी राज्यो को ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट्स लगाने के लिए कहेंगे तो मुझे लगता है कि इससे काफी फायदा होगा । अगर यह हो जाता है तो भविष्य मे यह हमारे लिए फायदेमंद साबित होगा ।

महोदया, इसमे खास बात तो यह है कि हमे इस बारे मे प्रोग्राम करके लोगों मे अवेयरनैस लानी पड़ेगी । जैसा अभी संतोष जी ने बताया कि प्लास्टिक की थैलियों का हम जब तक विरोध नहीं करेंगे, तब तक यह काम नही होगा । उस दिन मंत्री जी ने कहा था कि प्लास्टिक की थैलियो का विरोध है लेकिन जब हम लोग बाजार जाते हैं तो प्लास्टिक की थैलियां हाथ मे होती हैं । मुझे लगता है कि गृहिणी से लेकर उद्योग तक हमे अवेयरनैस लानी पड़ेगी । हमे अपने भविष्य की चिंता करनी पड़ेगी । इन शब्दो के साथ मैं इस विधेयक का समर्थन करती हूं और यह बिल लाने के लिए माननीय मंत्री जी को बहुत-बहुत धन्यवाद देती हूं ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Minister, you are levying some cess on them. When you levy the cess, you must also impress upon them that every industry should have a treatment plant. By merely levying the cess, you will not be able to solve the problem, unless you use the cess amount for putting up treatment plants. Otherwise, you let the industries to put up the treatment plants. Every new industry and old industry should have a treatment plant. Otherwise, you can't solve the problem. Shrimati N.P. Durga. You have got three minutes.

SHRI RAVULA CHANDRA SEKAR REDDY: Madam, it is her maiden speech.

5.00 p.m.

SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA (Andhra Pradesh): Madam Deputy Chairperson, it, indeed, gives me great pleasure to speak on the piece of legislation which, if not implemented meticulously, will have an adverse impact on our environment and, ultimately, on our lives. First, when we think of water, we have to invariably think of environment and this beautiful earth. This beautiful earth, which has been bequeathed to us by God, is, no doubt, very versatile. If we don't think of our environment or even glance at our environment, perhaps, we would be censured by the future generation that we did not pause and think of environment in good times.

The basic objective and purpose of this Bill is to augment the resources and address the issues of water and air pollution. To my mind, there are three important aspects in this Bill. The first one is to widen the base in terms of industries mentioned in clause 2 of the Bill. The second one is exemption of hydel power. And the third one is prescription of rates for water consumption.

Madam, I agree with the hon. Minister when he says that the cess rates are bound to go up because one-and-a-half paisa per kilolitre or four paisa per kilolitre, now-a-days, is nothing. So, I support the move of the Government to increase the cess to meet the rising administrative costs. But, at the same time, will it not affect the competitiveness of the industry? We have to look at this as well. I understand the main objective behind the Bill is to strengthen the State Pollution Control Boards (SPCBs) economically. If that is the case, I would like to know from the hon. Minister as to why the Government is giving only 80 per cent of the cess so collected to the SPCBs and keeping 20 per cent with the Central Pollution Control Board (CPCB). I agree that the Central Pollution Control Board is running all the major laboratories, taking up air quality management, like Zoning Atlas and other activities. But, it has got a separate Budgetary allocation for that. Hence, I request the hon. Minister to distribute at least 95 per cent of the cess so collected to the State Pollution Control Boards and the Central Pollution Control Board may retain 5% for its administrative purpose. I am insisting on this because it is the State Governments, which have to shoulder the responsibility for implementing this Act. So, the entire burden is on the State Governments and the Central Pollution Control Board is doing nothing, not even monitoring.

The other point I would like to mention is that merely imposing cess on water does not totally solve the problem of pollution and reduce the toxic and poisonous substances emitted from chemical industries and vehicles, or the noise and air pollution. For this, what we have to do is to take steps to reduce water consumption by industries. I would cite one example. The paper industry is using 250 cu.mt. of water per tonne and we have to bring it down to 50-75 cu.mt. Then, we have steel industry and distilleries. So, we have to educate the industry to have discipline in consuming water by using modern technology.

I would like to know from the hon. Minister whether the industries are submitting proper returns and how many cases have been filed, during the last five years, under section 14 of the Act. Here, you are increasing the tariff by threefold under Clause 3. Due to this, naturally, some burden will fall on industry. And, to escape from that, the industry will always try to search for loopholes. So, has the Minister got any monitoring mechanism to check the consumption of water used by industry? If so, the hon. Minister may explain this.

Madam, the next point is that the rules clearly say that every industry should set up an effluent treatment plant. But, how many industries have set up such plants? To my knowledge, not many. So, I would say, why cannot the Government set up common effluent treatment plants, especially for the small units, and charge them rather than asking every unit to set up its own plant?

As this august House is aware water is the most precious natural resource on earth; we have to conserve it. To conserve water, we have to have water harvesting. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has given impetus to this and is doing all that it can for water harvesting. The Government of Andhra Pradesh has taken up 'Neeru-Meeru' *i.e.*, "Water and You" and Jalayagnam Programmes to conserve water. So, I strongly emphasize here that in the way we have brought 'Green Revolution' and 'White Revolution' in this country, now, the time has come to bring 'Water Revolution' so as to meet the basic minimum requirements of the country. So, I would like to know from the hon. Minister what the Central Ground Water Authority, National Water Development Authority and other agencies are doing in this regard. We are happy to note here that the Government has initiated linking of all major rivers by 2016.

Finally, sub-clause (c) of Clause 2 says, "Industry includes any operation or process which consumes water and/ or gives rise to sewage effluent or trade effluent." It is good that we are imposing cess on industries which are consuming and giving rise to sewage effluents or trade effluents, but there are significant categories of industries which are polluting air. I would like to know what the Ministry is doing in this regard because those industries are more dangerous since they are emitting sulphur and other poisonous gases. I would like the hon. Minister to ponder over this and do something on this.

Madam, these are some of the issues that I wish to bring to the notice of the hon. Minister. I request the hon. Minister to seriously think on all these queries/suggestions and do something concrete so that the industrial pollution is controlled and water is conserved. Thank you.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Mr. Prasanta Chatterjee.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, it is already 5'o clock. Would you like to take the sense of the House?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We will finish it today. Now, we have Mr. Chatterjee with three minutes, Shrimati Kum Kum Rai with two minutes and the Minister has already spoken.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Are we taking up the clarifications?

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: No, we will adjourn the House after this.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, can you tell us when are we going to take it up? Madam, the matter about bottled water is very serious. There was a Calling Attention in the Lok Sabha. This is for your information only and was taken up yesterday. We have a Calling Attention pending in our House. But if clarifications are taken up, then we don't have to take it up. If you can decide it...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There are three names. One is yours, second is of Shri Suresh Pachouri and the third is of Shri Moolchand Meena. Two are here and the third is not here. If you think that by putting questions you can have a full-fledged discussion, it is not possible. The Minister is not here. Let me finish this Bill. Then we will decide about it.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: So, you will decide after the Bill is passed!

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Let us first finish it.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE(West Bengal): Madam, we all know that with the rapid extension of urbanisation and expansion of industry the problem of pollution together with the problem of safe drinking water is bound to increase. The Cess rate fixed in 1991 has not been revised. In the Bill, the introduction of Cess has been proposed on industrial units. The industrial units, which conform to the prescribed standards for effluent, have to pay lower amount of Cess. The high polluting industries should bear the major burden of Cess. That is right. But before the introduction of Cess, the State Government should be consulted. Now in the Bill, the prevention and control of pollution has been linked with the introduction of Cess. Industries should be forced to take anti-pollution devices. How can the drinking water be saved and made pollution free? What are the sources of drinking water? The sources are surface water and ground water. We are not using the rain water source. Cherrapunji which is having good rainfall, is also suffering from scarcity of drinking water. That is another point. The vast section of people residing in rural areas depend on hand pump shallow tubewell. In the urban areas, particularly in the big municipalities, surface water is available. In the towns and even in some big municipalities, tubewell with electrically-fitted pumps are drawing deep ground water. Now take the case of Arsenic-prone areas. In West Bengal, we are facing this problem in some of the areas. If we want to save the people of these areas, we must arrange to supply surface water, not ground water. Moreover the ground water is depleting and going down. But what is the condition of our rivers, the main rivers, the Ganges, the Yamuna, etc.? Are our rivers pollution free? Take the example of the Yamuna. Once I had heard the Irrigation Minister of UP, who belongs to that side, whose wife was a Mayor of a city, saying publicly, अरे यमुना के पानी की बात छोड़िये, वह तो सिंचाई के लिए भी अच्छा नहीं है। I remember that. At that time I was a Mayor. I would like to know whether required dredging has been done. That has not been done. Could we build up the scientific temperament of the people to consider the Ganges and the Yamuna in the right perspective? People are throwing garbage and waste into rivers. People after worshipping in temples throw articles into the rivers. Who will build up the scientific temperament of the people, not to throw waste into

rivers? That pollutes. That is a very important question. Now unfortunately, we are playing with *Trishuls*. That is most important. Instead of building up the scientific temperament, we have started playing with *Trishuls*, because that is very important to some of us, to the VHP, to capture the seat of power. But the pollution will remain. In principle, we support this Bill. But before the introduction of Cess, I once again repeat, the State Governments should be consulted. On the one hand, we are polluting drinking water, on the other hand, some of the business units -- it was discussed in this House -- are selling polluted water in bottles. They have been given a clean chit by the Minister. Anyway, we support in principle, the Water Cess (Amendment) Bill . Thank you.

डॉ. कुमकुम राय (बिहार) : महोदया, माननीय मंत्री जी जल (प्रदूषण निवारण तथा नियंत्रण) उपकर (संशोधन) विधेयक, 2003 यहां लाए हैं और उसमें कहा गया है कि 1977 में जो कानून बना था, उसमें फिर से संशोधन करने के लिए यह विधेयक लाया गया है । 1974 में जो विधेयक बना था, उसके अंतर्गत केन्द्र और राज्यों का प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड बना । लेकिन 1974 से लेकर आज 2003 तक केन्द्र और राज्य के प्रदूषण नियंत्रण बोर्ड के माध्यम से जल के संरक्षण या जल के प्रदूषण से संबंधित कितनी कार्यवाहियां की गयी, यह पब्लिक को आज तक पता नहीं चला । साथ ही साथ हमारी केन्द्रीय सरकार और राज्य सरकारों के द्वारा दूसरे भी कई ऐक्शन प्लान चलते रहे हैं, करोड़ों के गंगा ऐक्शन प्लान, यमुना ऐक्शन प्लान चलते रहे हैं लेकिन उनसे हमारे वॉटर रिसोर्सिज़ में प्रदूषण बढ़ने की ज़ो रफ्तार है, वह लगातार बढ़ती चली जा रही है । उस प्रदूषण को घटाने में हमें कोई सफलता आज तक नहीं मिली है । प्रदूषण पर नियंत्रण और निराकरण करने के लिए बोर्ड को उद्योगों पर उपकर लगाने का अधिकार दिया जा रहा है। मैं मंत्री जी से यह जानना चाहती हूं कि क्या सैस लगाकर इंडस्ट्रीज़ को यह छूट दे दी जाएगी कि हमारी जो जल सम्पदा है - जो हमारी आबादी है, मानव से लेकर, पशु पक्षी से लेकर, पेड़-पौधों तक, जिनके लिए यह बहुत आवश्यक है और जिसकी मात्रा हमारे यहां बहुत कम है - क्या वे सैस देकर मनमाने ढंग से उस जल का उपयोग करने के लिए खुली छूट के अधिकारी हो जाएंगे या उसकी सीमा को भी नियंत्रण बोर्ड नियंत्रित कर सकेंगे, निर्धारित कर सकेंगे ? दूसरा, मैं यह कहना चाहती हूं कि जो तमाम तालाब हैं, जो तमाम नदियां हैं या समुद्र के तट हैं, वहां पर बहुत अधिक प्रदूषण होता है जिसके कारण तमाम बीमारियां फैलती हैं, तमाम बर्बादियां होती हैं, उनसे लोगों को बचाने के लिए हमारे ये बोर्ड किस तरह से काम करेंगे - इसका कोई ब्यौरा हमारे विधेयक में नहीं है । जो भी खतरनाक रासायनिक या कीटनाशक उद्योग हैं या चीनी उद्योग है, चमड़े के कारखाने हैं, इनके आस पास इतनी लम्बी चौड़ी जगह पर, जमीन पर वे प्रदूषित जल छोड़ देते हैं और यह जल वर्षों तक वहां जमा रहता है । इसका परिणाम यह होता है कि उसके आसपास बसी हुई जो बस्तियां हैं, उसके आस पास जो गांव हैं, जो आबादी है, जिनको हम शुद्ध पेय जल सरकारी स्तर पर नहीं पहुंचा पाते, जो बोरिंग करके पेय जल लेते हैं, वहां उसका रंग बदला हुआ नजर आता है जो बहुत ही खतरनाक होता है। ये कल-कारखाने अपनी औद्योगिक शर्तों का उल्लंघन करते हुए कोई भी ट्रीटमेंट प्लांट नहीं लगाते और प्रदूषण को लगातार बढ़ाते चले जा रहे हैं । सैस लगाने के बाद क्या इस बात की गारंटी है

कि उन औद्योगिक परिसरों के अगल-बगल में प्रदूषण नहीं होगा ? इसका कोई भरोसा इसमें नहीं दिया गया है । महोदया, जल राष्ट्रीय सम्पदा है और पूरे विश्व में 97 प्रतिशत जल समुद्र का है, मात्र तीन प्रतिशत मीठे जल का है । इस प्रकार से किस प्रकार और कहां ये औद्योगिक इकाइयां स्थापित होंगी तथा इसका निर्धारण कौन करेगा? क्या उस जगह के जल की उपलब्धता के आधार पर इसका निर्धारण होगा या सिर्फ सैस के आधार पर हो जाएगा ? इन सब बातों का इसमें कोई स्पष्टीकरण नहीं दिया गया है । एक अरब वाले भारत जैसे मुल्क में जहां आज भी महिलाएं दूर दराज के गांवों में मीलों सफर करके सिर के ऊपर घड़ों में, कलशों में पानी लाती हैं और उसका बहुत कंजूसी से उपयोग करती हैं, इसकी कोई गारंटी नहीं दी जा सकती कि उनके अगल-बगल जो कल-कारखाने लगाए जाएंगे, सिर्फ सैस का भुगतान करके वे मनमाने ढंग से जल का उपयोग नहीं करेंगे और प्रदूषित जल अगल-बगल में छोड़कर बाकी लोगों के लिए जल का संकट पैदा नही करेंगे । महोदया, आप देख रही हैं कि पूरे विश्व में ही नहीं बल्कि हमारे ही देश में जल से संबंधित कितने सारे विवाद और कितनी लड़ाइयां हो रही हैं । जल के अंतर्राज्यीय विवाद उत्पन्न हैं, तमाम अंतर्देशीय विवाद उत्पन्न हैं । ऐसी स्थिति में हमारे माननीय मंत्री महोदय इन सब बिन्दुओं को भी स्पष्ट करें । यदि इन सब बातों को स्पष्ट करके मंत्री महोदय विधेयक लाते हैं, तो मैं इसका समर्थन करती हूं । धन्यवाद ।

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: There is a lake in Jaipur, between Amber and Jaipur. That is not polluted so much by the chemical, but it is polluted by water hyacinths. The lake is now drying because of hyacinths. Something has to be done for that. Yes, Mr. Minister to reply now.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : Madam, first of all, I would like to thank my good old friends and sisters who have participated in this discussion. They have given various suggestions to which I may not be able to reply immediately. But, I will take them up with the concerned Minister and see to it that they are taken care of. These suggestions would be considered when we bring in suitable amendments in due course.

Madam, firstly, I would say that the Cess Act was introduced in 1977, and the first Amendment was made in 1991. And, after 12 years, we are bringing in this Amendment. The reason why we have brought in this Amendment is that after the Environment Protection Act came into effect in 1986, multi-fold responsibilities were to be undertaken by the State Pollution Control Boards as well as the Central Pollution Control Board, and we had to augment their resources. When this Bill was brought before the House, it was referred to the Standing Committee twice, and the Standing Committee thoroughly scrutinised the Bill for more than a year or two. Now, the Bill is before the Rajya Sabha.

Madam, firstly, I want to say something on the availability of water. As far as the global scenario is concerned, three-fourth of the earth is surrounded by water. Out of this, 2.7 per cent is fresh water and 97.3 per cent is sea-water. Out of this 2.7 per cent, 1.6 per cent lies in the snow-covered areas of Antarctica and Arctic. Out of 1.6 per cent, 1.1 per cent flows into the river, lakes and other water bodies. Out of 1.1 per cent, only .5 per cent is available for human consumption. This is the data as far as the global scenario is concerned. As far as India is concerned, the per capita availability of fresh water in 1951 was 5,177 cubic metres. In 2001, it was 1,820 cubic metres. By 2025, it would be in the order of 1,340 cubic metres. And, by 2,050, it would deplete to 1,140 cubic metres. By 2025, two out of three persons will have to live in water-stress areas. This is the picture as far as the global scenario and the Indian scenario is concerned.

Madam, as has been rightly mentioned by you and other hon. Members, there are a lot of industries, and unless and until we insist on effluent treatment plants, pollution is bound to be there. It is for the Government of the respective States to see to it that abatement of pollution is done by the industries at the source itself. We have been taking action against the erring industries. In the past three years, we have registered cases against 1,551 industries. Out of 1,551 industries, 1,351 units have their effluent treatment plants now. We have directed 178 units to close down. And, as of now, action is to be taken against only 23 units. The Central Government has given Rs.63.19 crores as financial assistance to set up 91 common effluent treatment plants. And, environment clearance is given only after satisfying that the industry has its effluent treatment plant. While giving licence, we are insisting on them to see that affluent treatment plant is there. It is more important, that is why, we have cleared it. And as far as...*(Interruptions)*...

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: A lady Member wanted to disturb you, so I said to her, let him finish.

SHRI T.R. BAALU : My friend, Mr. Santosh Bagrodia, as usual, he has found that his friend who is in the ruling party, as a Minister, is not having any teeth. Really, it is true, Madam. In fact, we are inclined to have amendment to the Environment Protection Act. All this is in the offing. Definitely we will be bringing a more comprehensive Bill, as far as the protection of environment is concerned. He has mentioned that the Ganga

Action Plan-1 was brought when their late lamented leader, Shri Rajiv Gandhi was in power. He has brought it in 1985 and since then nothing was in order. Mr. Bagrodia said that the Ganga river is getting polluted and nobody is able to take a bath in the polluted water. He is very much correct. What was the pollution level at the time when the Ganga Action Plan - I was brought into existence in 1985? The pollution level is 2500 MLD, but at that time, whereas the designed level was 873 MLD only. A project worth Rs.452 crore was envisaged at that point of time, the pollution level dealt with was only up to 35 per cent. The net result will be 35 per cent only. You cannot expect 100 per cent result. What has happened to the Thames River in England when it was cleaned up? The Thames River is only 250 kilometres long, whereas the Ganga is 2525 Kilometres long. How do we expect the entire abating pollution to be controlled overnight? It is not possible. We have to invest money. Unless, we invest fully, the Ganga Action Plan will not become a success. But at the same time, whatever we have invested, that investment was higher; up to 12 per cent is more than equal to the investment in a public sector undertaking. But, at the same time, as far as the NRCP work is concerned, I would like to say that the Kannouj and Varanasi stretch is getting better water quality. Do you agree with me? If that is not clean then what is clean? But, unless our investment is 100 per cent, we cannot expect 100 per cent result. If you invest 35 per cent, then you will get 35 per cent result only. Madam, Shrimati Savita Sharda while supporting the Bill had raised the issue of plastic carry bags.

Madam, we had appointed the Ranganath Misra Committee. It has recommended certain things. We have already issued a notification on this issue. Plastic below 20 microgns is already banned and we will be issuing a notification very shortly. Pollution in Gujarat ...*(Interruptions)*...

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Sorry, Madam, please allow me for a minute. It is a very serious problem.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I allowed you quite a bit.

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: He misunderstood my point, that is why I am requesting you to allow me for a minute. He has mentioned about the Ranganath Mishra Committee. I fully agree that I have mentioned in my remarks that despite this Committee's recommendations,

despite these rules, they are not being implemented. Unless you stop it completely, there is no machinery to check it. That is one thing. And, then this issue is limited to the carrying bags. It is not referring to the bags which are going to the fields of the country. The second point, which I have mentioned has not been replied by you. Please look into it. You do not have to reply right now and set up another Committee.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: In the international scenario, there is a lot of discussion going on. I do not want to mention anything. Let us have the scientific findings in this regard. I have to verify whether it is degradable or non-degradable up to another 400 years. The scientific findings have come out some ten days' back, or, one month back. There are some discussions going on in this regard. So, I think during the Question Hour, I will be able to tell you about this. As of now, I cannot prove whether it is good or bad.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: The main thing over here is that Mr. Prasanta Chatterjee said that there should be a scientific awareness to educate the people not to throw the pooja material or polythene bags into the river. You cannot overnight ban anything because it can create problems. But we can restrict it; we should not throw it on the streets. Proper disposal should be there. I suggest that voluntarily there should be a Committee of the Members of Parliament because after all, they are responsible for their constituencies and areas. We are people's representatives. Why can't we do it ourselves? We expect only the Government machinery to do it. If the Government machinery does it, then there is going to be more cess on us because they will need resources to implement it. So, why can't we do it ourselves? It is very simple. One should not throw rubbish on the streets or in the rivers.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, we have brought in our fold all the schools, about 100 schools per district. We have taken up a programme wherein 100 students per school will be involved. Almost 54,000 schools have been brought under the National Green Core Programme, in order to create awareness. The Government has already taken care of it, and the awareness programme is going on.

Madam, you wanted to know as to what we are doing for the Amber Lake in Jaipur. This problem is due to heavy inflow of nitrogen and phosphorus from untreated Municipal water. The Ministry has taken up the

Lake Conservation Project for setting up a sewage treatment plant. It answers your particular query.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: I think you have answered everything.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, I have answered the main points. I am not answering the rest of the points because of constraint of time. We are taking care of this problem. The awareness programme is in place. The schools and NGOs are involved in this programme. We are concentrating on this problem. During the last two months, the NGOs have conducted many seminars on these 17 polluting industries. We have interacted with them in the last two months. We are going to bring out a charter in the next ten or fifteen days.

SHRI PRASANTA CHATTERJEE: What about arsenic pollution?

SHRI T.R. BAALU: The problem of arsenic pollution will be taken care of. It will be dealt with in due course of time.

Madam, with this, I request the hon. Members to pass this Bill.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: In West Bengal, there is arsenic pollution.

Now the question is:

"That the Bill further to amend the Water (Prevention and Control of Pollution) Cess Act, 1977, as passed by Lok Sabha, be taken into consideration."

The motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: We shall now take up clause-by-clause consideration of the Bill.

Clauses 2 to 6 were added to the Bill.

Clause 1, the Enacting Formula and the Title were added to the Bill.

SHRI T.R. BAALU: Madam, I move:

"That the Bill be returned."

The question was put and the motion was adopted.

THE DEPUTY CHAIRMAN: Thank you very much for the hard work which you are doing as the Minister for Environment on anti-pollution. मंत्री जी, पानी का अब दूसरा सवाल है । वॉटर बॉटल्ज़ के सिलसिले में कल जो यहां एक स्टेटमेंट किया था, उस पर सिर्फ तीन लोगों ने सवाल पूछने की कोशिश की है । मैं अब कोई और नाम एंटरटेन नहीं करूंगी । संतोष बागड़ोदिया जी उस बारे में बहुत उत्सुक हैं । मैं उनसे कहूंगी कि वह आपसे सवाल पूछ लें ।

CLARIFICATIONS ON THE STATEMENT BY MINISTER

Re. Presence of pesticide residue in packaged drinking and mineral water

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA (Rajasthan): Madam, in order to make it shorter, I will straightaway put questions. On what basis, the BIS originally formulated the standards for mineral water, particularly for packaged drinking water? Secondly, what is the licence for natural mineral water given in France? If so, how do the BIS control the quality of mineral water produced in France?

उपसभापति : यह फ्रांस के मंत्री नहीं हैं, यह भारत के मंत्री हैं ।

श्री संतोष बागड़ोदिया : यह इनके स्टेटमेंट में लिखा है । I am referring to his statement.

उपसभापति : मंत्री जी, आप फ्रांस की जिम्मेदारी क्यों ले रहे हैं, अपनी ही पूरी कर लीजिए तो बहुत अच्छा है ।

SHRI SANTOSH BAGRODIA: Madam, I am saving the time by not referring to what is written in the statement. I am just asking questions based on the statement. Thirdly, if bottled water is in adherence to the present standards and is fit for human consumption, according to what you have mentioned in the statement, why have you and your colleague, the Health Minister, suggested new norms?